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HONG KONG'S GRAND OLD MAN

Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung Celebrating Their Golden Wedding

(Reprinted by Kind permission from the Hong Kong Daily Press, November 30th, 1931)

THE Golden Wedding Anniversary of Sir Robert Ho Tung, who is affectionately referred to as "Hong Kong's Grand Old Man" by many who know him in Europe, America and China, will afford an opportunity for the showering of hearty congratulations and good wishes for many more years of health and happiness upon Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung. Letters of greeting and cablegrams from friends in other lands are being received daily and a large number of local residents will assemble at the Peninsula Hotel next Wednesday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, in response to the invitations issued by Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung.

Perhaps no Chinese resident of Hong Kong is better known throughout the world than Sir Robert. He has been royally received upon his visits to England and is personally known to many of the leading financiers and business men in Europe and America.

The romantic story of his rise to wealth and fame from comparative poverty and obscurity is indeed a fascinating one.

Sir Robert was born in a humble home in Hong Kong, 69 years ago, the eldest son of a large family, there being four brothers and three sisters. Although the family was poor, there was sufficient means to give the children some education, and at the age of seven, young Robert was sent to a Chinese school, where he showed that he had a natural gift for learning. From the age of twelve to seventeen he attended the Hong Kong Central School (now Queen's College), where he studied English. Here he gave promise of the success which was to come to him in after life.

He began his career in the business world by entering a competitive examination in the year 1878, when he was chosen for a post on the indoor staff of the Maritime Customs at Canton.

With Jardine Matheson.

The post in the Customs did not offer young Ho Tung sufficient scope for his ambitions, so he resigned in 1880 and entered commerce which he eventually showed was his true forte, by accepting the post of Junior Assistant to the Compradore of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., Ltd. At first he only received $15 per month, plus an annual bonus. Business aptitude and energy were such that before his association with the firm came to an end in 1900, he had risen from a junior position to the important office of Chief Compradore, which he held for more than six years. Health reasons compelled him to relinquish this position in favour of his brother.

A Financial Magnate.

A reference to the list of companies printed in the Directory under the name of Sir Robert Ho Tung, Kt., LL.D., is an indication of the responsibilty and influence of this quiet man in Hong Kong. In addition to the many business activities which he personally undertakes, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., Hong Kong Electric Co., Ltd., Chairman, Hong Kong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Canton Insurance Co., Ltd., Hong Kong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., Kam Hing Knitting Co., Ltd., Hong Kong Rope Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels, Ltd., Peak Tramways Co., Ltd., Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd., Green Island Cement Co., Ltd., Hong Kong Engineering and Construction Co., Ltd., China Light and Power Co., Ltd., China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd., and chairman of the United Photoplay Service, Ltd. In each of the companies Sir Robert takes a keen interest, being unwilling to be a director in name only.

A Public Benefactor.

Sir Robert's interest in public affairs has been shown in many and varied ways. He has served in an official capacity in almost every organization for the promotion of the interests and well-being of the Chinese of Hong Kong. Education especially has found in him a most generous supporter. He is one of the largest contributors to the

Endowment Fund of Hong Kong University, his gifts totaling $260,000. He presented to the Colony the Kowloon British School, and has founded many scholarships which bear his name in some of the colleges in Hong Kong.

Sir Robert was the Chairman of the Tung Wa Hospital in the year 1898 and during his term of office, he was instrumental in raising subscriptions for the building of the new Extension Hospital and the Infectious Hospital.

During the Great War, he contributed a sum of $10,000 to the Prince of Wales' Fund and gave $50,000 for two aeroplanes and motor ambulances used by the British Army and also contributed another $6,000.00 towards the cost of another aeroplane. At that time when the Hong Kong Government decided to increase the rates by seven per cent. for war purposes, he felt that this might be a heavy burden on the poorer classes and he volunteered personally to pay the entire amount of this extra impost on behalf of all his tenants for the whole period during which it was in force. To help those brought into distress by flood, famine, and typhoon, both in Hong Kong and in North China, Sir Robert has very freely given to funds initiated on their behalf.

Sir Robert performed a work of the utmost helpfulness to Hong Kong and South China generally when, in 1920, he accepted the chairmanship of the most important of the sub-committees functioning under the committee appointed by the Government to investigate the economic resources of the Colony. This sub-committee conducted the most extensive inquiries into every branch of industry in Hong Kong and the New Territories.

Another instance of his public-spirited achievements is in the settlement of the Great Strike in Hong Kong. In the early part of 1922, the Colony of Hong Kong was brought to a point of almost total paralysis as a consequence of a general stoppage of labour, in connection with the Seamen's Strike. It looked as if no one could settle the dispute, but, happily, Sir Robert was able to help greatly in bringing about a settlement.

Honours and Decorations.

Sir Robert had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him by His Majesty the King in 1915. He is the senior Justice of Peace

in Hong Kong and the possessor of several Chinese Decorations. The later President Uuan Shih Kai honoured him with the Order of the Chia Ho (Excellent Crop), Third Class, the Second Class of the same Order was given him by President Li Yuan Hung, while the Second Class of the same Order with brilliancy came to him from President Hsu Shih Chang. Again, in December 1922, on the occasion of his sixty-first birthday, President Li Yuan Hung conferred upon Sir Robert the First Class Chia Ho with Grand Sash. He is a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem; Knight Grand Officer of the Ancient Order of Christ, Portugal. It is also interesting to record that Sir Robert has been appointed Honorary Adviser to both President Hsu Shih Chang and President Li Yuan Hung. He holds, as well, the honour of Doctor of Laws of the Hong Kong University.

Peace Maker.

It was in 1923 that Sir Robert made a patriotic effort to set up a Round Table Conference of the various military leaders of China with a view to ending internal warfare. In that year he dispatched personal invitations to the leaders of China to attend a Peace Conference to discuss ways and means to secure a peaceful re-unification. The scheme, which was the first of its kind, received the approval of the late Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the late President Li Yuan Hung, the late Marshal Chang Tso Lin, also Marshals Tuan Chi Jui, Lu Yung Hsiang, Chih Sieh Yuan, Dr. Wellington Koo and many other Chinese leaders and of numerous public bodies and institutions throughout China. He went up to Shanghai and North China to undertake the arduous task for which he spared neither time, health nor money. He was confident that in spite of the chaotic conditions prevailing in China, the exercise of tact, patience and good-will in working for peace would bring his proposed Round Table Conference to a successful culmination. In his own words: "I want to see all of China's leaders round a table, prepared to talk over their grievances and to find a way out of China's troubles. That, I feel sure, would pave the way to peace, a peace which my countrymen are crying for." It is regrettable that the time was not opportune nor ripe for such a high ideal, and the outcome of his efforts was the securing of the agreement of most of the Chinese Leaders to the Conference in principle, and the appointment of an influential committee to press it forward at every conceivable opportunity.

Travels Abroad.

Sir Robert acted as Honorary Associate Commissioner representing Hong Kong at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in 1924 and 1925, and much of the success of the Hong Kong section was due to his supervision and organization. A most interesting enlarged photograph of Sir Robert clad in a rich Chinese silk gown, accompanying with Lady Ho Tung their Majesties the King and Queen through the crowd of interested spectators at the Wembley Exhibition, hangs on the wall of the private office of Sir Robert in the New Bank Buildings, 4 A, Des Voeux Road, Central.

A man of wide knowledge, Sir Robert has travelled extensively throughout Europe and the United States of America, besides making frequent business trips to North China and Japan.

His travels have given him a broad outlook upon men and things generally, and a good knowledge of western methods and thoughts.

Business Policy.

Sir Robert attributes his success in life to honesty, foresight, carefulness, courtesy, perseverance and hard work. Even at his advanced age, he is an indefatigable worker. The writer of this article has been interested and amazed on several occasions to observe the expeditious manner in which a mass of important and urgent matters are handled in Sir Robert's private office, where his active brain keeps several secretaries constantly employed, while he leaves no important decision to be made by others.

He is a strong opponent of extravagance in any form, and in this connection it may be mentioned that he is a firm believer in the movements for reform and the abandonment of bad customs in China. Sir Robert never fails to return kindness, and throughout all his life he has never forgotten his old friends, no matter how poor they might be.

Lady Ho Tung.

The gracious lady who became the bride of Mr. Robert Ho Tung a half century ago, who to-day shares his fame and wealth, has been during all these years a worthy help-mate and companion. Lady Margaret Ho Tung was born in 1865. She is a Lady of Grace of the

Order of St. John of Jerusalem. She shares with her husband in his generous and philanthropic spirit and is keenly interested in all his beneficent projects, and is always ready to assist in any good work. To her must be accorded the credit for the pioneer work in sericulture which has been carried on in the New Territories, also vegetable and fruit growing. Lady Ho Tung has for many years been noted for her hobby of flower, fruit and vegetable growing and when in the early history of the New Territories, Sir Robert acquired some eighteen acres of land on the outskirts of the Kam Tsin Village, which had been left uncultivated, Lady Ho Tung found on this land the opportunity for practical work in this connection. As a result of her efforts, during years of toil and perseverance, there has grown up at this village a model farm called "Tung Ying Hok Po." this name being derived from a combination of Sir Robert's first and Lady Ho Tung's maiden name. It covers now over a hundred acres and is in every way a modern place. Lady Ho Tung has won numerous prizes in the Annual Flower Shows and the New Territory Agricultural Shows. In sericulture, especially, her efforts have resulted in the carrying out of highly successful experiments.

In 1924 and 1925, Lady Ho Tung made two trips to the British Exhibition at Wembley and took with her a number of Chinese girls highly trained in the art of silk worm rearing and silk producing. She contributed much towards the success of the Hong Kong section in the Exhibition and won enormous praise for her efforts.

A GOLDEN WEDDING.

(Reprinted by Kind permission from the China Mail, December 2nd, 1931.)

WE have gone off the beaten track to-day. We discard the role of mentor and of critic. We drop the mantle of prophet of good and ill in local affairs. Instead we join the chorus of felicitations to Sir Robert Ho Tung and Lady Ho Tung on the occasion of their golden wedding. On our own behalf as a daily local newspaper and on behalf of our readers of all races and of all classes, we sincerely re-echo the numerous expressions of goodwill toward our "Grand Old Man" and his good lady that have been showered on them from all their well-wishers not alone in this Colony, but much farther afield. As in the case of so many pioneers of the Colony—the majority, alas! gathered to their fathers though their works be not forgotten—the career of Sir Robert Ho Tung is synonymous with the rise and development of Hong Kong. Beautiful words have been given utterance to on this auspicious occasion; but of fulsome flattery there is none. "The worth doth make the guinea rank—a man's a man for a' that." Sir Robert has ably proven himself to be a man among men: an example not only for his own kith and kin but for all who, in the course of their life work, may be inclined to mistake the shadow for the substance or who may place the fleeting pleasures of "high life in the East" before the upbuilding of sterling character and permanent uplifting of the community in which they are supposed to toil and spin for the ultimate good of one and all.

We may here digress from personal reflections on Sir Robert Ho Tung's long and splendid career. We may—if we may?—quote the following eulogy of Sir Robert in the course of the address presented to him by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce this morning:

"Equipped with a deep knowledge of English and Chinese you assiduously devoted yourself to our commercial activities. In the commercial world you found a huge field for the expression of your talents. Your wonderful foresight and unerring judgment in business testify to your thorough comprehension of the economic doctrines of Kai Yin and Kun Tsze. Gradually you won your way to the highest pinnacles of financial and business success, and to-day you are a

wealthy man, so wealthy, indeed, that you can with truth be described as the To Chu and the Yee Tun of the present day. As a public benefactor you have spent with almost prodigal liberality from your wealth for education, flood relief, drought relief, and other charitable purposes ....When the whole Colony was imperilled by the seamen's strike, your timely assistance as a peace-maker at once put an end to the discussions of the different parties and so restored harmony and peace. In the Great War, was your generosity specially manifest. Your generous contributions helped to relieve the international crisis. You initiated the idea of a Round Table Peace Conference in China for the settlement of the conflicts between the different political parties. You worked for the peaceful unification of China and so became the pioneer of the peace movement. As honorary adviser to former Presidents of China you have dedicated your talents."

The subject is one on which, like Tennyson's brook, we could go on babbling to the extent of the eighty-four columns of this newspaper. But in honouring Sir Robert Ho Tung and Lady Ho Tung, the Colony is but honouring itself, brimful of pride that this particular Colony and no other has been the chosen area for the multitudinous activities of our "Grand Old Man." Long may he and his yet be spared to fulfil the pleasurable role of worthy citizens of a worthy Colony!

HONG KONG'S "GRAND OLD MAN" CELEBRATES GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

(Reprinted by kind permission from the Hong Kong Telegraph, December 2nd, 1931.)

THIS MORNING'S HAPPY FUNCTION.

Many Congratulatory Addresses.

Sir Robert Responds.

TO-DAY is a happy day for Sir Robert and Lady Margaret Ho Tung, who celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

This morning they received at their picturesque home, "Idlewild," 8, Seymour Road, deputations from the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, the Tung Wah Hospital, the Po Leung Kuk, and the Twenty-four Merchant-Guilds Association.

Many relatives and close friends, with their ladies, also attended this reception. Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung received their guests on the porch, and good-naturedly posed for a battery of cameras, "movies" and "stills;" and later, in the Hall, they had to submit to spot-lights being flashed on them for more "shots" to be taken by "movie" cameramen professional and amateur. As one guest was overheard to remark, it was "very Hollywoodish!"

The deputations offered congratulations and presented the happy couple with beautiful mementoes of the occasion. Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung were also the recipients of many scrolls on gold and red silk, most of them framed in blackwood; and in the hall was exhibited a fine array of gold and silver presents.

After presentations and speeches refreshments were served, and later the gathering enthusiastically drank the healths of Sir Robert and his lady.

Scrolls of Eulogy.

All the speeches of the deputation in the morning were made in Chinese. The following is a translation of the congratulatory address from the Chinese Chamber of Commerce:

Of our Book of Odes, the very first ode is in praise of a worthy man sincerely yearning for a maiden of perfect virtue. In our Classic of Change, which propounds the principle of mutation that governs the evolution of life, the significance of the marriage of the female with the male, is emphasised. It is with such deep understanding of Truth that our ancient sages in formulating their ethical teachings attached all importance to the family and social relationships of man. Of all these relationships which the superior man in his self-realization seeks to perfect, that between husband and wife is the first and most important. Hence the wish in the hearts of both husband and wife to live together till they attain the perfect age of a hundred years; and hence their aspiration for prosperity not only in their own life but also among their descendants of five generations. And how much more glorious is the conjugal relationship which ennobles the husband's family traditions, inspires him to achieve fame, wealth, and the honour of Knighthood, and strengthens them both to enjoy fully fifty years of mutual love and happiness? Such a perfect relationship has found realization in Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung.

To you, Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung, we offer our deep respect and sincere congratulations on this joyful occasion of your Golden Wedding. The blessing of long life which you are now enjoying is due to the abundance of your beautiful thoughts and ideals, and the many honours that have been conferred upon you are in recognition of the distinguished record of humanitarian service that you have established. The Mandate comes down from His Majesty the King, and you are made a Knight. Lady Ho Tung shares your honour, and the matrimonial harmony that permeates your family is intensified. Parallel with Longevity and Honour is the blessing of Health. As the pine and the cypress flourish better in winter, so your vitality and virility radiate in greater measure at your old age. The phoenix and the bird of felicity sing their melodious songs in praise of your life-long mutual love and respect for each other. Not far distant is the

time of ten years from now when you will further demonstrate this love and respect by celebrating your Diamond Jubilee. Even now in the midst of all happy circumstances and in the company of all your children and grandchildren, your hearts have lost their limits in joy and pride.

We, members of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, find it difficult to express adequately our appreciation of your moral character. However, being friends of yours, we respectfully make the following remarks as a record of certain outstanding facts about your life.

You, Sir Robert, have built up a prosperous family through the practice of frugality. The extraordinary powers of intelligence and tact with which you are gifted have been demonstrated from the earliest years of your boyhood. Like sunshine that dispels all darkness, your sagacity and perspicacity enabled you to penetrate into the inner nature of men and of things revealing it in the light of your understanding. Cherishing an ambition that defies planetary influences you resolved at the age of thirteen to become a great one in the world. In remembrance of your mother's love for you, and in obedience to her behest, you applied yourself assiduously to your studies. As an elder brother and as a younger one you fulfilled your duties with love. Being receptive to your teachers' influence, you received a rich legacy of knowledge from their hands. In associating with your friends you care for absolute sincerity and despise deceit and suspicion. Thus culturing your inner being and outer behaviour, you have won from your friends and the public the reputation for simplicity and truthfulness. Equipped with a deep knowledge of English and Chinese you assiduously devoted yourself to our commercial activities. In the commercial world you found a huge field for the expression of your talents. Your wonderful foresight and unerring judgment in business testify to your thorough comprehension of the economic doctrines of Kai Yin and Kun Tsze. Gradually you won your way to the highest pinnacles of financial and business success, and to-day you are a wealthy man, so wealthy, indeed, that you can with truth be described as the To Chu and the Yee Tun of the present day. As a public benefactor you have spent with almost prodigal

liberality from your wealth for education, flood-relief, drought-relief, and other charitable purposes. Tenants of your houses in Hongkong were at one time during the Great War indebted to you for your magnanimity in not increasing their rentals to include the proportionate war rates that were imposed on the property of Hongkong. When the whole Colony was imperilled by the Seamen's Strike, your timely assistance as a Peace-maker at once put an end to the dissensions of the different parties and so restored harmony and peace. In the Great War was your generosity specially manifest. Your generous contributions helped to relieve the international crisis. You initiated the idea of a Round Table Peace Conference in China for the settlement of the conflicts between the different political parties. You worked for the peaceful unification of China and so became the pioneer of the Peace Movement. As honorary adviser to former presidents of China you have dedicated your talents. As your name spread from China to the other countries of the world, people from near and far strive to cultivate your acquaintance. The reputation you enjoy is due to the many qualities of sterling excellence which the world recognises in you and for which you have been rewarded with distinguished honours.

Highly esteemed by us all is also Lady Ho Tung. We have learnt that she possesses a fine literary taste and is fond of poetry and literature. Like the illustrious mother of Mencius you, Lady Ho Tung, adopted the right methods for the discipline of your children. In obedience to your moral precepts your servants diligently apply themselves to their duties at the loom and in the farm. Your hospitality is well-known and has been appreciated by many. You inspect the result of the year's agricultural activities and with a smile in your eyes you point your finger at the rich harvest that you are to reap. With the vegetable products of your farm you respectfully offer sacrifice before the shrine of your ancestors. You won honours for our country by exhibiting for the first time your sericultural work at the Wembley Exhibition. In pursuing your hobby of flower and fruit planting you develop your farm. Guided by your educative motherly influence your children have made themselves renowned, and inspired by your companionship, your husband has been able to accomplish his great task in life.

With the following remarks we now tender you our heartiest congratulations:—

As the quality of gold
Your enlightening influence will for ever last;
As the value of gold
Your worth is beyond estimation.
Golden is your Wedding;
Long live the Happy Couple;
Blessed are your children and grandchildren;
Boundless are your Happiness and Long Life.

COMMITTEE OF THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WONG KWONG TIN, *Chairman,*

etc., etc.

Hospital Tribute.

Below is a translation of the congratulatory address from the Tung Wah Hospital:

The Second Day of December of the twentieth year of the Republic of China is the Golden Anniversary of the wedding of Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung. We rejoice to have the privilege to participate in the festivities of this great day. We esteem you as a great philanthropist who always has the interests of your fellow creatures at heart. In the Mu Shut Year (1898) of the reign of Kwong Shu you were elected Chairman of the Tung Wah Hospital. Your tenure of office was distinguished by the establishment of a new hospital and a plague isolation hospital. Your multifarious charitable activities have won our reverence and admiration.

Now, on this happy occasion of your Golden Jubilee we wish you perfect health and that you will live to that age when you will celebrate the centenary of your wedding. To-day is indeed a grand and auspicious day of your life. With the following remarks we express to you our sincere congratulations and good wishes:

Hail Sir Robert Ho Tung!
Your moral character is lofty, and your renown great
A hundred years of conjugal happiness is as glorious
As the sun at the zenith of the sky.

Harmonious as the dulcimer and the harp will ever be your married life.

Many are the sterling excellences that you have embodied into your personality.

May this celebration of your Golden Wedding

Bring to you all Happiness and Felicity.

COMMITTEE OF TUNG WAH HOSPITAL,

NGAN SING KWAN, *Chairman*,

etc., etc.

Po Leung Kuk Tribute.

The following is a translation of the congratulatory address from the Po Leung Kuk:

The Second Day of December of the twentieth year of the Republic of China is the Golden Anniversary of the wedding of Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung. We feel it a great honour to be invited to their Reception. Sir Robert was the Chairman of the Po Leung Kuk in the Ping Shut year (1886.) This year when a new building is being built for the Po Leung Kuk Sir Robert donated $30,000 in memory of his late mother. We have no words to express our appreciation of his generosity and our admiration for his filial piety.

The celebration of this Golden Wedding marks the life-long conjugal happiness of Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung, and the Honour of Knighthood which His Majesty the King graciously conferred upon him testifies to his great renown. This is indeed a glorious occasion. In expressing our good wishes we respectfully add the following remarks:

Happy is this Golden Wedding;
Joyous is the assemblage in this hall.
As the pine trees flourish
As the sun shines,
So do your children and grandchildren
Prosper and rise in fame.
Fifty years of love and happiness
Mark the long life of the married couple.

COMMITTEE OF THE PO LEUNG KUK, TAM WOON TONG, (CHAIRMAN), ETC., ETC.

MERCHANT GUILDS TRIBUTE.

The following is a translation of the Congratulatory Address from the Twenty-four Merchant Guilds Association.

The Second Day of December of the 20th year of the Republic of China is the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung. It is a grand ceremony and, indeed, a great event. The high reputation of Sir Robert and the sublime moral character of Lady Ho Tung make the occasion a specially glorious one. We pray that your conjugal happiness will last a hundred years, and that your married life will be as bright as the sun and the moon. On this great day of your Golden Wedding we look back to that other great day of your life when you were honoured by His Majesty the King with the Honour of Knighthood, and we look forward to another great day of ten years from now when you will be celebrating your Diamond Wedding Anniversary. We cannot find adequate words for the expression of our esteem for you on this occasion. The following eulogistic verse is an inadequate attempt to voice our happy sentiments.—

Hail our Sir Robert Ho Tung.
Transcendent and sublime is your character;
By providence was your happy marriage destined;
As pure as Jade is your personality.
Fifty years ago began your happy married life,
It is marked by mutual respect, love, and bliss,
And crowned with wealth and honour, happiness and longevity.
You are respected by people of all nationalities,
Who on this day bend you their good wishes,
In which we all join as members of the Twenty-four Guilds.

Sir Robert's Reply.

Sir Robert Ho Tung replied in Chinese to the addresses. He said:—"On behalf of my wife and myself I thank you all for your welcome presence on this occasion of our Golden Wedding and for the kind way in which you referred to my wife and myself in your congratulatory addresses. We have also to thank you all very sincerely indeed for your most valuable presents.

"I have been thinking that according to our old Chinese customs it is generally the sixtieth anniversary of one's marriage that is considered worthy of special celebration; but nowadays we have learnt to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary, that is, the Golden Wedding as well. The number of years may be different, but the significance of the function must of necessity be the same in both cases. Such significance consists, on the one hand, in the intensification and perpetuation of the sentiments of love and respect which have been cherished in the hearts of the husband and the wife, and, on the other hand, in the deepening and strengthening of our regard for the ethical relationships which exist between man and man and between family and family.

Essential Factors.

"This idea leads me to ponder upon the essential factors for the preservation of the bond of solidity binding the husband and the wife. To my mind there are two essential factors—one, the enjoyment of long life, which is concerned with Providence, and the other the practice of righteousness, which is concerned with man himself. Providence appears to destine the span of our life on earth. The superior man, therefore, in the cultivation of his moral being, abides by the Providential decree. But the practice of righteousness seems to be within the sphere of our free will, and so it should be the wish of all of us to encourage one another in such worthy practice.

"Now that my wife and I have completed fifty years of our married life, although we may not be so bold as to boast of our mutual love and happiness, yet we can console ourselves that during this long period of fifty years, we have at least solemnly endeavoured to respect and realize the significance of our relation with each other, with the other members of our family and with society at large.

Wishes Reciprocated.

"I should like therefore to embrace this occasion to express my sincere wish that you all, my dear friends and relatives, will be spared to enjoy your married lives in mutual love and mutual respect till your hairs and eyebrows have turned from black to grey and from grey to silver white, till that great day when you, too, will be celebrat-

ing your Golden and Diamond Weddings in the midst of your children and grandchildren, and then, ladies and gentlemen, my wife and I will most happily reciprocate to you the sincere congratulations and kind wishes which we have accepted in such abundance from you to day.

"Hand in hand we shall march together in the Hall of Happiness, and all in all will participate in the festivities of those great days that are to come. Happy and glorious indeed will be those great days!"

SIR ROBERT HO TUNG GOLDEN WEDDING.

(Reprinted by kind permission from the South China Morning Post, December 3rd, 1931.)

HUGE CROWD GATHER AT PENINSULA HOTEL RECEPTION.

$200,000 Donation for Colony.

CONGRATULATORY messages from all parts of the world piled in on Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung yesterday, the occasion of their golden wedding—a fitting tribute to their popularity and an indication of the esteem in which Hongkong's great benefactor is held. In addition, he was honoured by the local Chinese community in the morning with long eulogistic deputations, while a large gathering of foreign residents attended a reception at the Peninsula Hotel in the afternoon.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Peel, spoke highly of the great service Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung had done, and in expressing thanks, Sir Robert announced that he had donated $200,000 to the Colony to mark the 50th anniversary of his married life. Half of this sum is to be applied to the building of a children's welfare centre in the New Territories, and the other half to provide free education for poor girls in the east end of the city.

Eulogistic References Made.

From an early hour yesterday Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung were kept busy receiving congratulations from personal friends and different organisations in Hongkong. A big deputation of prominent Chinese citizens waited on them at their home, "Idlewild," Seymour Road, at 11 a.m. presenting eulogistic addresses. Those present represented the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Tung Wah Hospital, the Po Leung Kuk and the Twenty-Four Merchant-Guilds Association.

The reception rooms at "Idlewild" were a profusion of floral tributes, handsome painted and embroidered scrolls and beautiful presents received from friends in many parts of the world.

The attendance at the Peninsula Hotel in the afternoon was a glittering spectacle, with the picturesque and colourful dresses of the Chinese women, and was estimated at over 1,000. Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung received the guests in the ground floor lounge, while the rose room and roof garden were taken over for the celebrations.

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Peel arrived about 4.30 p.m. and took their places beside Sir Robert and his wife on a dais at the northern end of the rose room. Also on the dais were Sir Howard and Lady Kelly, Major-General Sandilands, Hon. Dr. and Mrs. R. H. Kotewall and Mr. Wong Kwong-tin. His Excellency and Dr. Kotewall made eulogistic references to the good work of Sir Robert and his wife, and after Sir Robert's reply, the gathering took tea, each person present being given a piece of the monster wedding cake. Dancing was continued until 8 p.m.

The whole of the speeches were relayed by station Z.B.W.

LARGE GATHERING.

Prominent People Among Those Present.

MANY OLD FRIENDS.

Among those present were:

H.E. Sir William Peel and Lady Peel, Admiral Sir W. A. H. Kelly, Lady Kelly and Miss Kelly, H.E. Major General J. W. Sandilands, Commodore and Mrs. Walker, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Southorn, Sir Joseph Kemp, Mr. R. E. Lindsell and Mrs. Lindsell, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Alabaster, Hon. Mr., Mrs., and Miss Hallifax, Hon. Mr. and Mrs E. Taylor, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Creasy, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. E. D C. Wolfe, Hon. Commander and Mrs. Hole, Hon. Dr. W. B. A. Moore and Mrs. Moore, Hon. Sir Shou-son and Lady Chow, Hon. Mr. W. E. L. Shenton, Hon. Dr. and Mrs. R. H. Kotewall, Hon Mr., Mrs. and Miss Owen Hughes, Hon. Mr. J. P. Braga, Hon. Dr. and Mrs. S. W. T'so, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. G. Mackie, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bell,

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Paterson, Mr. C. de Albuquerque e Castro, M. and Mme. Dufure de la Prade, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Putnam, Dr. and Mrs. B. Hahn and Miss Hahn, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Bagram, Sir William Hornell, Capt. T. A. H. Coltman, Capt. G. W. A. Tufton, Sir Reginald Johnston, Flag Lieut.-Com. L. A. H. Wright, Com. E. H. Wethey. Mr. and Mrs. G. Miskin, Mr. and Mrs. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Biggar, Col. and Mrs. L. G. Bird, Dr. and Mrs. Black, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Compton, Mr. and Mrs. Crapnell, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Carrie, Maj. H.B.L. Dowbiggin, O.B.E., Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Dyer, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. D. Forrest, Prof., Mrs., and Misses Gerrard, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Goldsmith, Mr. and Mrs. V. N. Grayburn, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Hall, Dr. J. M. Henry, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hicks, Mr. P. N. Jester, Mr. M. J. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. King, Mr. J. Megarry, Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Murphy. Mr. and Mrs. R. A. C. North, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Newill, D.S.O., Mr. and Mrs. J. C. O'Gorman Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Ohl, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Perry, Mr. G. H. Potts, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Priestley, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Plummer, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Raymond, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. da Roza, Mr. and Mrs. A. Rollin, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Sayer, Mr. J. Stuart, Col. and Mrs. Skinner, Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Smith, Mr. P. H. Suckling, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. R. Shaw, Mr. W. T. Stanton, Mr. and Mrs. A. Stevenson, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Stagg, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Taggart, Mr. and Mrs. W. Schofield, Mr. and Mrs. G. G. N. Tinson, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Turner, Mr. P. Tester, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Waddington, Rev. G. T. Waldegrave, Mr. J. P. Warren, Mr. A. E. White, Mr. T. B. Wilson, Mr. A. E. Wood, Mr. B. Wylie, Mr. W. J. Riddiford. Mr. and Mrs. Stokkink.

Marshal Li Chai Sum, Messrs. Liang Shi Yee, Chan Tin-son, Chau Tsun-nin, Chau Yu-ting, Fung Heung-tsun, Kwok Siu-lau, Li Yau-tsun, C.B.E., Tam Woon-tong, Wong Kwong-tin, Ngan Shing-kwan, and members of the Committee of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, the Tung Wah Hospital, the Po Leung Kuk, the Twenty-four Merchant-Guilds Association, and other public institutions, and leading merchants of the Colony.

HONOURED CAREER

Governor Pays Tribute to Couple.

SIR ROBERT'S REPLY.

Sir William Peel said:

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen:

It is my privilege to-day to propose the health of Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung, on the occasion of their golden wedding . I think I am right in saying that this is the first golden wedding at which I have been present. Though they occur more frequently than they used to, they are still somewhat rare, and I am scarcely optimistic enough to expect to be present at my own.

One cannot but be struck by the great energy and virility of Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung, having regard to—I must not say to the fact that they have enjoyed fifty years of married life, for I might cause some indignation on the part of married people at the suggestion that married life militates against such virility—rather I should say, having regard to the age which they must have attained to have enabled them to complete fifty years of married life. There is no doubt that this energy and virility are due to the fact that they have always taken an intense interests in affairs and in their fellow creatures. (Applause)

On an occasion of this kind one ought, I suppose, to refer more to the domestic life of the happy couple, but it is not possible to avoid reference to the public life and services of Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung. Sir Robert has been connected with public affairs for nearly as long as he has been married, having been appointed a member of the Po Leung Kuk committee no less than 45 years ago. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace 40 years ago, and received from His Majesty the King the honour of a Knight Bachelor in the year 1915. He has made many generous gifts, especially to education, and to the University in particular, but the list is too long for me to enumerate.

Many Activities.

He has always been engaged in many activities, both in this Colony and in China. He is still full of enterprise, and in a recent

London illustrated paper I saw a picture of him, indicating that he was proposing to start a Hollywood at Peking. I do not know how far this is true, but I suggest that, if it is, he might perhaps take Lady Ho Tung on a new honeymoon to that place in America, in order to study the conditions there. I understand that the attractions at Hollywood are very great, and perhaps it would be safer to make the visit on the lines I suggest. (Laughter)

Lady Ho Tung's beneficent works are innumerable. She has proved a great helpmate to her husband. If I may be allowed a personal note I may say that I yield to none in my appreciation of the value that a wife may be to her husband in both his private and his public life; and I am therefore all the more able to realize the enormous help that Lady Ho Tung must have been to Sir Robert during the fifty years that they have been together. Her work in the New Territories is well known to most of us, though perhaps we do not realize its full extent. She has done most excellent work in connexion with sericulture and agriculture, showing what can be done in these industries in this Colony. Whenever she takes a thing up, she works at it hard and keenly, and her establishment at Fanling, with its gardens and silkworm experiments, is a monument to her patience and industry.

Aid to Wembley.

She and Sir Robert proved towers of strength to the Hongkong section at Wembley in 1924 and 1925. Her silk-work exhibit, which she personally conducted in every detail, was among the most successful exhibits of the whole exhibition.

Their generosity and good works still continue, and I have recently had further evidence of this in a generous promise from them to donate considerable sums for the benefit of education in the Colony, and of the health of the poorer people in the New Territories, in which Lady Ho Tung is specially interested. (Hear, hear!). I will, however, leave Sir Robert to make a statement in this matter.

If, as I believe, the happiness one attains largely depends on the happiness one gives to others, then I think that the couple whose health I am proposing have deserved a great measure of it, and I trust that they will continue to enjoy such happiness for many years to come.

I now ask you to join me in drinking the health of Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung, on this the 50 anniversary of their marriage. (Applause).

COLLEAGUE'S TRIBUTE

Eulogistic Remarks by Hon. Dr. R. H. Kotewall.

NOTABLE PUBLIC WORK.

Paying a tribute to Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung, Hon. Dr. R. H. Kotewall said:

I have just come away from a wedding at which I had the privilege of proposing the principal toast. It is now my honour and pleasure to speak at this wedding celebration on behalf of the friends of Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung and I think I can say—although I hold no definite mandate from it—on behalf of the Chinese community of which Sir Robert is such a distinguished member. In so far as I can see, there is no essential difference between the two ceremonies, except that the one was a brand-new affair, and the other is fifty years old. When we look at the 'bride and bridegroom' before us—we Chinese delight to call the happy couple on their golden wedding anniversary by this happy name—when we look at them, we can see that the same romantic spirit as resides in the hearts of newly-wed lovers, still animates theirs, and the same zest for life as is characteristic of youth still quickens their blood. (Hear, hear!)

Mark Twain, when being felicitated on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, said: "Threescore years and ten! It is the Scriptural statute of limitations. After that, for you the strenuous life is over." No doubt, the incomparable Mark spoke humorously, but I have the feeling that he also said it half seriously.

No Retirement Yet.

Many a man attaining to that honourable old age as Sir Robert has attained, would think of retirement, of rest and leisure which are theirs by right; but it is not so with our esteemed friend. Those who have known Sir Robert, as I have, for the last thirty-five years or so, can tell you that his intellectual powers have not shown the slightest diminution since they made his acquaintance, and that, physically, he is a stronger man to-day. Apart from his extraordinary energy and virility to which His Excellency the Governor has referred,

he is still imbued with that adventurous urge which spurs on such questing spirits as the octogenarians Lord Strathcona and Captain Robert Dollar, ever to go forward and to achieve, when lesser men of half their age would doubt, waver and vegetate.

Work for Hongkong.

His Excellency has outlined Sir Robert's public career, and the substantial contributions which he has made to the social life of the Colony. The important part Sir Robert played in bringing about the settlement of the Seamen's Strike in 1922 by guaranteeing a large sum of money to be paid in certain eventualities deserves special mention here. I venture to think that his public career and his business achievments constitute a record which cannot be excelled by that of any other citizen now living. (Applause). That Sir Robert is one of the greatest sons of Hongkong no one can honestly deny. That the Colony is proud of him is evidenced by the large gathering of friends who come here to participate in his joy. I count myself one of his admirers. I admire him for his wonderful foresight and unerring judgment, his tremendous energy and tenacity of purpose and, what appeals to me most, the perennial spirit of youth which he has evinced in his later years. (Applause).

Lady Ho Tung's Part.

To Sir Robert's manifold successes Lady Ho Tung has undoubtedly contributed in no small measure. (Applause). Like His Excellency, if I may be permitted to add my own personal experience, I, too, have learnt to appreciate the value that a good wife can be to her husband in his public and his private life. In Lady Ho Tung, Sir Robert has a helpmate who sympathises and encourages, who shared his hopes and hardships in his early years of struggle, and who assisted him, with that combination of quiet tact and easy dignity that is peculiarly hers, in the heavy social duties inevitable in the life of a man of such large interests. I have been told that so highly does Sir Robert rate her acumen and good sense that he submits a daily summary of his business transactions to her scrutiny. Some of the married men present may not consider this very exceptional, since they themselves possibly have to render to their wives when they arrive home late at night, a detailed account of their time after leaving the office—to the best of their ingenuity. (Laughter).

I cannot fully enumerate here Lady Ho Tung's good qualities just as I cannot fully enumerate Sir Robert's. It may suffice to say that the qualities of the two so nicely complement each other that they have made not only Sir Robert's material success which is stupendous, but also the success of fifty years of married life, which is the greatest thing of all. In the name of their Chinese friends who can be said to comprise the Chinese community, I offer to Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung heartiest congratulations and the best of good wishes. (Applause).

LOOKING BACK.

Sir Robert Reviews Life in Eloquent Reply.

HEARTFELT THANKS.

In an eloquent reply Sir Robert said:

Your Excellencies, Lady Peel, ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of my wife and other members of my family, as well as on my own behalf, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency the Governor and Lady Peel for the honour they have done us by attending this reception, and above all, to His Excellency for the very kind way in which he has proposed our health (Applause). Equally warmly do I thank Dr. Kotewall for his kind remarks, and you all, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your welcome presence here, and for the cordial manner in which you have responded to the toast. (Applause).

Having attained the age of three score and ten, I have, of course, received my quota of sorrow and happiness. Sorrow is inevitable in human life, which we would fain forget; but happiness is too precious and, perhaps, not too abundant for us not to appreciate to the full, and to store in our memories. Indeed, to recapture the happiness of some bygone days is a source of happiness in itself. To-day, as my wife and I, both happily enjoying the blessing of good health, stand before you to receive your congratulations and good wishes upon the fiftieth anniversary of our wedding, (Applause) I feel that this is an occasion which constitutes the happiest and the most memorable day

of my life. In this circumstance I hope that you will pardon me if I indulge for a few brief moments in personal reminiscences.

Fifty years ago, when I married, the Chinese marriage customs in Hongkong were very different from those of the present day. The wedding cake and honeymoon were practically unheard of; the nuptial dinner was an elaborate affair; and the number of "kowtows" which the bride and the bridegroom had to perform to parents, uncles, aunts and a host of other elders was enough to give them the "housemaid's knee."

Old Marriage Customs.

The young couple were denied the joy of a few quiet moments to themselves, having to entertain their friends night after night up to the small hours of the morning, for at least a week. The present day bride and bridegroom are happily free from these fetters of conventionalities and can have all the time to themselves immediately after the wedding reception. To make up for what we lost half a century ago, I have persuaded my wife to go on a honeymoon with me after this reception. (Laughter and applause).

And no less marked than the change in our marriage customs has been the progress which the Colony has made in all directions since I was married fifty years ago. In those days the Peak Tramway had not been built; there were no motors, no buses, no trams; and no building exceeding three storeys in height. Electricity, with all that it implies, was practically unknown in Hongkong. The littoral of Kowloon presented to the observer on the Island nothing more than a bare outline of the territorial boundary of the harbour. Industries were literally non-existing then. There was no railway to Canton; no comfortable double-enders to conduct the trans-harbour traffic; no piers for the ocean going steamers, and the Kowloon Godown had not been built, and lastly, no means of converse with our friends in Canton by simply dialing on the telephone instrument and the application of the receiver to the ear.

Story of Career.

Faced with the stern necessity of earning a livelihood, and handicapped by indifferent health which at times caused the deepest anxiety to those dearest to me, I started as capital with nothing more substantial than an unbounded and steadfast hope, an unshakable

determination to translate that hope into reality, and the felicity of a happy home. I can say that if, during the subsequent years of my married life, I have succeeded in securing my family from want, and making my humble contributions to the cause of charity and education, none knows better than I do how much of that success is due to the help, encouragement and inspiration of my wife. (Hear, Hear!)

When I look back and take a retrospective view of the fifty years through which my wife and I have passed, in clouds and sunshine, I cannot but realise how much we have to be thankful for. In thankfulness for the abundant measure of happiness which has been vouchsafed to us, and in order to mark this anniversary of our wedding, I beg to announce that I take much pleasure in donating to the Colony a sum of $200,000—half of which is to be applied to the building of a Children's Welfare Centre in the New Territories, and the other half is to provide free education for poor girls in the East End of the City. (Loud applause.).

Your Excellencies, Lady Peel, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you all once more for your kind presence and good wishes. (Applause).

SIR ROBERT'S GIFT.

(Reprinted by kind permission from the South China Morning Post, December 4th, 1931.)

A PUBLIC vote of thanks is due to Sir Robert Ho Tung for his magnificent gift to the Colony of $200,000. Many will have searched the reports of Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung's golden wedding celebrations to discover precisely how much Sir Robert has now given to one institution and another. Sir Robert's modesty apparently forbade him to refer to the matter in detail, and the speakers who conveyed the community's congratulations found the calculation somewhat beyond them, so many and varied have been Sir Robert's benefactions. It is recalled that he has given $260,000 to the University, that he presented the Kowloon British School to the Colony, and that recently he donated $30,000 to build the new Po Leung Kuk. It will not be surprising to discover that the community is indebted to Sir Robert for gifts totalling a million dollars, not to mention the further heavy obligation arising from his public service and his enterprise in promoting industrial and other development. Sir Robert's latest gift breaks new ground and is devoted to objects very happily conceived. $100,000 is to be used to provide free education for poor girls in the eastern districts of the city, and the other $100,000 to establish a children's welfare centre in the New Territories. Opinion as to the Colony's most pressing needs may be divided, but there can be no question of the value of the two services which Sir Robert now further promotes. The importance of women requires no emphasis. Whatever be the view of women's sphere in the world generally, the natural fact that the first influence upon children is that of women makes it essential that the women of Hongkong shall be lifted out of their ignorance. Upon their education depends the prospect of breaking down the superstitions and bad old customs which are so largely responsible for the poor state of public health and public conduct. Schooling will make them better wives and mothers, and the extension of infant welfare work should be of material assistance to them in their subsequent responsibilities. It will be recalled that the Government inserted in the Estimates for next year a vote for the first official Baby Clinic. It will also be remembered that for some years the Chinese Y.M.C.A., assisted by Chinese and Foreign medical men, have carried out infant welfare work, while recently

there has come into being the New Territories Medical Benevolent Society, designed to improve the public health of the hinterland and bring about a better appreciation of hygiene. This awakening to the essentials of human happiness is very welcome, and in encouraging the work Sir Robert has added appreciably to the future's firmer foundations. That Sir Robert should have had the New Territories so definitely in mind is as might have been expected from the interest he has shown in the development of the country areas. The silk farm and experimental filatures established by Lady Ho Tung are well-known, and both Sir Robert and his lady have been moving spirits in organising the New Territories Agricultural Show. That Sir Robert's gift should also be devoted to the benefit of the native-born is in accordance with the fitness of things. That Hongkong needs citizens of its own, that Government policy should more clearly promise permanence so that citizenship may develop, that foreigners should make their homes here instead of retiring to spend their savings elsewhere —these are traditional and frequent pleas. We welcome Sir Robert as an ally in the effort to make Hongkong a more comfortable and happier place to live. For him no other allegiance is possible. His greatest claim to the Colony's honour is the fact that he is Hongkong born, and yet triumphantly survives the handicap. He began, he says, with no more capital than unbounded and steadfast hope; but also he had so great a store of potential energy and efficiency that it is difficult to imagine him a failure. His career is a shining example to the youth of the Colony. A self-made man in the best sense of the term, he has climbed the ladder of success from the bottom rung to the top. In honouring him, and in thanking him for his gift, the community will also desire to join in the felicitations extended to him and Lady Ho Tung and add its wishes for many more years of health, prosperity, happiness and public service.

TRUE MUNIFICENCE.

(Reprinted by kind permission from the Hong Kong Telegraph, December 3rd, 1931).

THERE are people who amass wealth and keep it to themselves; others, who, when riches come their way, make a point of remembering those less well-to-do. As he once again indicated in the announcement which he made yesterday, Sir Robert Ho Tung belongs to the unselfish class. Having already achieved a reputation of spending with almost prodigal liberality on others, Sir Robert has now decided to make a munificent gift of $200,000 to the Colony. The manner of allocation of this big sum is characteristic of the man—it is to be spent on the needy. Half will be devoted to the creation of a Children's Welfare Centre in the New Territories, and the remainder to the provision of free education for poor children in the eastern district of the city. Thus does Sir Robert once again dispense with a free hand some of the wealth which he has accumulated as the result of his keen business instincts, his foresight and his perseverance. It may come as a surprise to many people to know that in his early life Sir Robert knew what it was to go without very many things which he would have liked to enjoy. But, although born in humble surroundings, he set out in life with a determination to make good. How well he has succeeded everybody knows. It is worth recalling that his first position was in the indoor staff of the Maritime Customs in Canton, which he entered on leaving school. He was the only one selected, in a competitive examination, out of twenty candidates, of which he was the youngest. For two years he remained in this post, earning a meagre salary of about $30 per month. There is no need to trace his career through to the high eminence which he has now reached, but it will not be out of place to remark that the habits of thrift and caution which he has since displayed were inculcated when, as a lad, he made a practice of saving a few cents daily from his small tiffin allowance. From the money so saved, he always aimed at sparing something for aged beggars, thus demonstrating a thoughtfulness for others less blessed than himself which he has carried with him throughout his life. Coupled with this trait is the further characteristic by which he is known of condemning extravagance in any form. Sir Robert is a true believer in the maxim that waste, under any circumstances, is unpardonable.

He has built up his success by qualities which have stood him in good stead whatever the circumstances he has been called upon to face. On the happy occasion on which he and his life's partner have received the felicitations of innumerable friends, he has added yet another claim to be remembered as one who never forgets those less well-circumstanced than himself.

TRANSLATION OF CONGRATULATORY SCROLL FROM SIR JAMES STEWART LOCKHART, K.C.M.G., TO SIR ROBERT AND LADY HO TUNG ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING.

To

SIR ROBERT & LADY HO TUNG

on the occasion of their Golden Wedding:

Long was my stay in China and great was my delight in cultivating the friendship of Chinese people. When I first lived in Hongkong and knew Sir Robert Ho Tung, he was just at the prime of his youth, occupying a post in a commercial firm from which he derived but a meagre income. I was impressed by his exemplary truthfulness and integrity of character, and so he and I became friends. Later, I came to know that Sir Robert had been extremely poor from his earliest boyhood, and that his everyday life was one of utter simplicity and frugality. He was, nevertheless, amply wealthy in great ideas and lofty aspirations. As a business man he was particularly strict in observing absolute faith and propriety in his dealings, and in practising the virtue of modesty and cautiousness. Within a few years his inner wealth of ideals and aspirations gradually and steadfastly manifested itself and became reality in the outer world, but such realization did not induce him to slacken his effort at cultivating simplicity in his everyday private life. He was as assiduous and thrifty as he had ever been before. As a result, he grew in wealth and prosperity and in the upliftment of his family traditions. He came to be highly esteemed not only by the Chinese community but also by the Government of Hongkong. It seems well-nigh impossible to enumerate all Sir Robert Ho Tung's public-spirited activities and charitable deeds, which eventually won for him the recognition of our country and for which he was rewarded with the honour of a knighthood. With the establishment of himself as the leading commercial influence amongst the Chinese in the whole Colony of Hongkong, Sir Robert's fame spread farther and farther in China and in other countries of the world; but he has shown no selfish pride on his achievements.

As my friendship with him grew in depth and intensity with the lapse of years, I came to realize also the worthy moral nature of his wife. It may well be said of Lady Ho Tung that, as the "internal helpmate" of Sir Robert, she is the embodiment of those moral qualities that characterise and distinguish perfect womanhood. She it is that inspired her husband to realize happiness in being good and doing good for good's sake, co-operating with him as a model wife in the family and as an educative influence in society. Thus, their mutual love and mutual respect which are such perfect ideals of our English family, have become the most prominent features of their married life.

It is now fifty years since Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung married each other. Their hairs have turned silvery white. Their married life has verily been the expression of that spirit of true love and respect which is embodied in the well-known historical marriage in old China in which the wife in attending to her husband at every meal throughout her life raised every dish to the level of her eyebrows before placing it before him.

To day Sir Robert and Lady Ho Tung's brothers and their families are all in a flourishing and successful state; their children and son-in-laws have all made themselves well-known to the present age, and they themselves, established as they are in Honour and Affluence, are still firm in their allegiance to the ideal of Simplicity and Frugality which they cherished so highly in their younger days. I admire the great personality of Sir Robert Ho Tung, and congratulate myself on the good fortune of being his friend. I therefore embrace this felicitous occasion of their Golden Wedding to write out in all sincerity and with all respect this address as an expression of my affectionate sentiments for them. At this great distance from Hongkong I raise my wine goblet and drink to their Happiness and Long Life.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART.

On a felicitous day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-one.

GREETINGS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES RECEIVED.

Good Wishes Sent.

The Prince's Message.

AMONG the many congratulatory messages received were the following:

From London:

ADMIRAL SIR LIONEL HALSEY.—"His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, desires me to extend to you and Lady Ho Tung his hearty congratulations and many good wishes.....I offer you and Lady Ho Tung my very hearty congratulations. I must regret that distance will prevent my attending your Celebrations, but I can assure you that we shall think of you both and drink your very good health on that auspicious occasion."

THE RT. HON. RAMSAY MACDONALD.—"My daughters and I were much interested and delighted to hear that you and Lady Ho Tung will be celebrating your Golden Wedding, and we wish a magic carpet could transport us to join the friends gathered at your house on that day. As it is, we can only send you our very cordial congratulations and best wishes for many more anniversaries."

THE RT. HON. STANLEY BALDWIN.—"Mrs. Baldwin and I were much interested to hear that Lady Ho Tung and you are celebrating your Golden Wedding, and I should like to take this opportunity of sending you our congratulations and best wishes."

THE RT. HON. LLOYD GEORGE: "My wife and I send heartiest greetings and best wishes to you both for the celebration of your golden wedding".

THE RT. HON. J. H. THOMAS: "I wish that we could be with you, it is of course quite impossible, so I must confine myself to sending very best congratulations and good wishes from Mrs. Thomas and myself to you and Lady Ho Tung".

THE RT. HON. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN.—"My wife and I should like to send you and Lady Ho Tung our very sincere and hearty congratulations upon so long and harmonious a wedded life, and our earnest hopes that you and Lady Ho Tung may long be spared to enjoy many more years of good health and happiness".

SIR TRAVERS CLARK.—"My wife and I offer you and Lady Ho Tung our warmest congratulations on your Golden Wedding. Although we cannot be present with you in person, yet we shall be in spirit and we wish you both the best of luck and health."

SIR CLAUD SEVERN: "Heartiest congratulations".

SIR JAMES AND LADY LOCKHART: "We wish you both continued happiness and success and hope the Ho Clan will continue to flourish".

SIR CHARLES AND LADY ADDIS: "We hasten to send you our felicitations on the celebration of your golden wedding".

SIR NEWTON AND LADY STABB: "My hearty congratulations as well as those of my wife to Lady Ho Tung and yourself on your Golden Wedding".

MR. AND MRS. D. LANDALE, MR. AND MRS. D. G. M. BERNARD, MR. AND MRS. N. L. LEEFE: "Hearty congratulations and best wishes on this memorable occasion".

MR. AND MRS. H. D. C. JONES: "We offer you our hearty congratulations on such a unique occasion, which so many aspire to and so few achieve".

DR. ALFRED SZE, Chinese Minister in London.

MR. J. E. JOSEPH.

Mr. Hung Man Chiu.

Mr. George She.

Messrs. de Zoete & Gordon.

From Kuala Lumpur:

H. E. Sir Cecil Clementi.—"Please allow me to send Lady Ho Tung and yourself my warmest good wishes on this auspicious occasion. I hope that many more happy years of married life will be yours and that you are both in perfect health."

From Jamaica:

H. E. Sir Reginald Stubbs: "We send you our warmest congratulations and good wishes.

From Suva.

H. E. Sir Murchison Fletcher (Governor of Fiji): "All good wishes".

From Peiping:

H. E. Sir Miles Lampson: "My best congratulations on this auspicious occasion".

Marshal Chang Hsueh Liang.

General Wan Fu Lin.

General K. C. Tang.

Dr. V. K. Wellington Koo.

General Ho Fung-lin.

Mr. Mei Lan Fong.

Mr. Ho Shuet Hong.

From Shanghai:

Finance Minister T. V. Soong.

Mr. Yeh Kun-cho (former Minister of Communication).

DR. C. C. WU.

MR. WANG CHING-WEI.

SIR VICTOR SASSOON, COMMANDER DAVEY, MR. COLLETT and Sassoon Staff.

MR. W. H. STEWART, and colleagues, Accountants Office, Wayfoong.

MR. JOHN KESWICK,

MR. B. D. BEITH,

MR. AND MRS. MAURICE BENJAMIN,

MR. AND MRS. E. HAYIM,

MR. MCBAIN,

MR. S. W. SUTTERLE,

MR. YAVDYNSKY,

MR. B. R. FORSTER,

MR. AND MRS. CUMINE,

MR. H. CLARK,

MR. H. A. THOMPSON,

MR. YU YA-CHING,

MR. DAVID YUI,

MR. LI MING,

MR. TSU-YEE PEI,

MR. CHANG KAI-NGAU,

MR. K. P. CHEN,

MR. DAVID AU,

MR. BANG HOW,

MR. FUNG KENG-KWANG,

MR. SUNG HANG CHANG,

DR. H. L. HUANG,

MR. M. Y. TANG,

MR. CHUN BING-HIN and nephews.

MISS LILY YUEN,

MR. CHANG DART MAN,

MR. PETER CHANT,

Miss A. Macbeth,
Mr. Kum Hon Son and family,
Mr. Ling Man Lai,
Mr. Kum Hon Son and family,
Mr. Lai Man Wei and colleagues of United Photoplay Service Ltd.
Mr. Robert Fan,

Mr. Liang Yen Hing and Miss Helen Liang (*Tientsin*).
Mr. W. S. Dupree, rept. of Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd. (*Hankow*).
Hon. Mr. Eu Tong Sen, O.B.E. (*Singapore*).
Mr. S. Q. Wong, (*Singapore*).
Mr. Choy Chong, (*Canton*).
Mr. J. Braga, (*Macao*).
Mr. F. J. Gellion, (*Macao*).
Mr. Ye Wah Kow, (*Swatow*).

His Lordship Bishop Valtorta.—"I am very eager to convey to you my heartiest congratulations on this happy occasion. Your life, so full of good work and activities, and your name so closely associated with many local institutions call for well deserved congratulations indeed. May God bless you with many many more years of life and make you also worthy to deserve, not only the fleeting reward contained in men's congratulations and applause, but also, and chiefly, the eternal reward of a happy future life." (*Hongkong*).

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